other than Central Government offices, whenever such requests are received.

Law to Confiscate Property of corrupt public servants

2562. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has recommended for a new law to confiscate property of corrupt public servant;

(b) the steps taken to enact Forfeiture of Properties Act when disproportionate wealth is found; and

(c) other punitive measures proposed in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCIES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (C) The Central Vigilance Commission has supported a proposal under consideration in the Law Commission which seeks to enact separate legislation for forfeiting the ill-gotten properties of public servants, their relatives and associates.

Uniform for Class-IV Staff

2563. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended to discontinue issuing uniforms to class-IV staff and in lieu thereof, payment of monthly maintenance allowance to them;

(b) if so, the decision thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that class-IV staff do not wear uniforms which is prerequisite for that purpose; and

(d) by when Government are going to stop this practice involving wasteful expenditure in Government offices for the purchase of uniform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) As most of the employees in Administrative Offices were found not wearing uniforms while on duty, a reference was made to the Fifth Central Pay Commission to review the system of uniforms. Government is still to take a final view on the recommendations of the Commission to dicontinue uniforms for employees excepting *Security Staff, Police Personnel, Nurses, etc.*

Expert Committee Report on Pension System

2564. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee has recently submitted a report on pension system in India, if so, the details of the report and the constitution of the Committee;

(b) what action Government have taken on the report; and

(c) how far the proposal/suggestion of the Committee for renaming Public Provident Fund as Individual Retirement Account has found favour of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) An expert Committee headed by Dr. Surendra A. Dave with representatives from related Government Departments as well as the financial sector has recently submitted a report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on devising a pension system for India. The report has made suggestion for rationalising the existing pension and provident fund schemes with a view to enhancing returns and customer's satisfaction. The report recommends inter-alia (a) limit early withdrawals; (b) deploy superior financial portfolio management and information systems, so as to obtain higher rate of returns, (c) expand the coverage of existing provident fund systems so as to reach more workers and (d) improve the customer service of the existing provident fund system. A

suggestion has also been made to rename Public Provident Fund as Individual Retirement Account to focus on the objective of providing income security during old age. The recommendations of the Committee are in the nature of review and feedback on the ongoing pension and provident fund schemes and subject to feasibility wherever appropriate use of the recommendations shall be made to streamline and improve these programmes.

भारतीय भाषाओं में उत्तर लिखना

2565. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केंन्द्रीय सरकार ने विभिन्न सेवाओं में भर्ती के लिए सभी प्रतियोगी परिक्षाओं में भारतीय भाषाओं में उत्तर लिखने कै विकल्प की छूट दी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी सभी सेवाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या संसद द्वारा 18 जनवरी, 1998 को इस आशय से पारित संकल्प को पूर्णत: कार्यान्वित कर दिया गया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है और सरकार उसे कब तक कार्यान्वित करने का विचार रखती है?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा वित्त (बैंकिंग, राजस्व और बीमा) मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम.आर. जनार्दनन): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं, भारतीय संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल भाषाओं में से किसी भी भाषा में उत्तर लिखने का विकल्प, संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा संचालित सिविल सेवा (मुख्य) परीक्षा में ही सुलभ है।

(ग) और (घ) डॉ0 सतीश चन्द्र की अध्यक्षता में गठित विशेषज्ञ-समिति से अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल भारतीय भाषाओं का प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के प्रश्न पत्रों के प्रश्नों के उत्तर लिखने के माध्यम के रूप में प्रयोग आरम्भ किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे की जांच-पड़ताल करने को कहा गया था। उपर्युक्त विशेषज्ञ-समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिशें सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं। उपर्युक्त मामले की महत्ता, नजाकत और इस पर मतान्तर, (मत-भिन्नता) के मद्देनजर, सरकार इसके बारे में एक मतैक्य (आम राय) कायम करने का प्रयास कर रही है।

Request of SSI Units for Release of Naphtha

2566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 451 given in Rajya Sabha on 1st December, 1998 and state:

(a) how many requests of SSI units for the release of very small quantity to the tune of 24 Kilo litres per month of Naphtha are pending with PSUs;

(b) whether the PSUs have intimated the applicants regarding their consents to release the said quantity; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such SSI units are being compelled to contact the private refineries to cater to their needs; and

(d) by what time the requests of such units would be considered by the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a), (b) and (d) Two such requests were received by Indian Oil Corporation during October/November 1998 from SSI Units for supply of Naphtha. IOC has not conveyed its consent to supply Naphtha to these parties as they do not have any plant or machinery with them.

(c) No, Sir.

Growth of consumption of Petroleum Products

2567. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the present rate of growth of consumption of petroleum products, petroleum reserves are already to be exhausted in the first quarter of the next century, if so, how long the present known reserves are likely to last; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to curb consumption of petrol, diesel for vehicles and other users to preserve petroleum reserves for the posterity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At the current rate of